

Der. Doc. #1551

THE U.S. EMBASSY'S RETORT ON THE CHANG-
KUFENG INCIDENT, AUGUST 9, 1938.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED

FROM Moscow

Dated August 9, 1938
Rec'd 1:30 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

August 9, 3 p.m.

My telegram August 8, 11 a.m.

I understand that the Japanese Ambassador is manifesting greater pessimism following his last conversation with Litvinov and professes to be unable to understand Litvinov's attitude toward the Japanese proposal for cessation of hostilities in view of the fact that Litvinov stated that there were no Japanese troops at that time on Soviet territory and consequently the Soviet insistence on the removal of Japanese troops from territory claimed as Soviet as a condition precedent to any agreement had on the basis of this admission been met. I understand further that the Ambassador states that the communique of the interview while substantially correct failed to mention that the Japanese Ambassador had refused to accept Litvinov's version that Japanese troops had attacked on August 5 and that Japanese forces had provoked the incident at Grodekovo and had said that in both instances Soviet troops had taken the initiative. It is furthermore reported that the Japanese Ambassador admitted yesterday that the Russian troops were believed to be in occupancy of some part but not all of the height Changkufeng.

The declaration, as published in the communique of August 8 to the effect that Litvinov after stating that no Japanese troops were on Soviet territory did not meet the Japanese proposal for an immediate cessation of hostilities, had given rise to speculation in foreign circles as to the possible motives actuating this stand. The following opinions have been suggested possible explanations: (1) That Litvinov's statement and the military communique were not in accordance with the facts and that Japanese troops were still in occupancy of what the Soviet Government considers to be Soviet territory; (2) that as fighting was presumably still continuing Litvinov envisaged the possibility that before the cessation of hostilities could be actually effected the military situation might alter in favor of the Japanese and that contrary to his previous stand he would then be in the position of having agreed to a cessation of hostilities while Japanese troops were actually in occupation of Soviet territory, or (3) that the Soviet Government or Litvinov in the hope of exacting further concessions from the Japanese in regard to the general question of border incidents along the entire frontier is not desirous at the present time of terminating the incident. In support of the last explanation it may be

pointed

pointed out that the last paragraph of the Soviet communique on the conversation introduced an element heretofore not present in the Soviet demands, namely, that some general assurance will be sought from the Japanese against the recurrence of similar frontier incidents in the future.

Up to the present, at least from the published communiques of the Soviet Government and from other information available to the Embassy, there appears to be no, repeat no, evidence that the Soviet Government intends to recede from the position which it has maintained since the beginning of the controversy and there is an intimation in the request for a general assurance as indicated above that the Soviet Government may even be broadening its original position. In this way the Soviet Government, on the supposition that the Japanese do not intend to engage in a general war with the Soviet Union at the present time may be endeavoring to secure as complete a diplomatic victory as possible in the present instance and may be manifesting an uncompromising attitude in this controversy with a view to enhancing Soviet prestige in general throughout the world at this particular moment. As regards Litvinov's personal roll in the present controversy the consideration should not be excluded that the firm attitude which he has displayed may be motivated by a desire for the maximum of success with a view to enhancing his own standing with the Kremlin and his personal reputation abroad.

KIRK

No. 9609

United States of America

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

I Certify That the document hereunto annexed is a true copy from the files of this Department.

In testimony whereof, I, GEORGE C. MARSHALL,

Secretary of State, have hereunto caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed and my name subscribed by the Acting Authentication Officer of the said Department, at the city of Washington, in the District of Columbia, this twenty-third day of January, 1947.

/s/ George C. Marshall
Secretary of State.

By /s/ B. F. Cash
Acting Authentication Officer,
Department of State.

def doc # 1551

No. 1

張鼓峯事件ニ關スル米國大使館報告
來電

一九三八年八月九日
「モスコ」發
一九三八年八月九日
午後一時三十分受信

ワシントン
國務長官宛
八月八日午後三時
八月八日午前十一時

本官、「解スル所ニテ、日本大使、「リトウ、フ、ト、最近、會談
後、更ニ悲觀的トナリ、又、「リトウ、フ、クナヨ時、」願ニ日本軍隊居
ヲト述ベ、從テ、」願ト主張スル領域ヲ、日本軍隊、撤退、何
等協定、先決條件トセトスル、」例、主張、氏ノ右ニ述ベタコト
ヨリテ、認メタコトトナシ、事實ニ鑑ミテ、日本側停戰案ニ對スル
「リトウ、フ、」態度、理解、得エト告白シテ居ル、本官、更ニ會
談、公表、實質的ニ正シガ、八月五日日本軍隊、攻害ヲ行ヒ、又
「グダゴゴ」ニ於テ、事件ヲ起ラタリ、「リトウ、フ、」解釈、日本大使、
「行ハカ、」タコト及ヒ、右ノ場合ニモ、」軍ヲ事ヲ起ラト述ベタコ
トニ言及シテ居ル、日本大使、語ラタリ「解シテ居ル、更ニ又昨日日
本大使、」ロニ「軍ガ張鼓峯高地、全部ヲ奪イ、或ル部命令ト
願ニヤラデ、」ト認メタコト、報道ガアル、
「リトウ、フ、」願ニ日本軍ヲト述ベタ後、日本側即時停戰
案ニ應ジカ、」タコト、八月八日公表ニ未ダ聲明ヨリ、此、立場ヲ
トシテ動機如何ニ付外國人間ニ侵蝕ヲ行ヒテナル、此、如キ
意見ガ説明トナリ得ルモ、」トシテ傳ヘラシテ居ル

No. 2

old doc # 1551

(一) 以下、聲明及び軍側公表、事案ニ合ヒ日本軍
隊、今ナホソグニト、政府ガ、領ト考ヘテ居ル地奥ヲ
台領ニテ居ルヲアラセ、(二) 臺灣、恐ラク今モ繼續ニテ
居ルヲ、ソノコトニテ、停戦ノ現案ニ行ハル前ニ軍事上
情勢ガ日本側ニ有利ニ展開シ、或、從來、主張ニ反シ、
日本軍隊ガ、台領ヲ實際ニ占領スル居ル、ニ停戦ニ同意
シタコトニテ、ソノコトヲ見タテ、或、(三) ソノコト
政府又ハ、ソノコトニテ、國境全般ニ且リ國境紛争、一
般の問題ニ付、更ニ日本側ニ讓歩サセザラシテ、今、所
事件、終結、欲スナリ、テ、且、最後、説明、意、書
スルモ、トシテ、會談ニ付、(四) 側ニ表、且、最後、即
ニ、ソノコトニテ、側ニ表、或、ナリ、一、要素、即、將來類似
國境事件、再發ニ對シ日本側ヲ、何等カ一般の
保護ヲ、得ニスルコトガ、ハ、テ、居ル、ト、指、得、ル、ヲ、
(以下、次頁)

Defense Doc #1551

No. 3

現在迄、所少クモ「ソヴィエト」政府、公表及ニ大使館ニハイツ情報ニヨリ「ソヴィエト」政府が論争、當初以來採ッテ来タ立場カラ引キ下ル意図ガアルヤウテ證據ハナク、且テ記一般的保障、要求ニハ「ソヴィエト」政府が其、當初、立場ヲ拡張セシテ居ルコトが窺ヘルヤウデアル。カクテ「ソヴィエト」政府ハ日本ハ目下「ソヴィエト」一般ト一般的ニ戦争ヲヤル意図、ナシコトヲ見越シテ、當面、事件ニ付、出来得ルだけ、外交上、大成功ヲ收メヤウトシ、且特ニ今日コ、時世界中ニ対シ「ソヴィエト」一般ニ威ヲ高メル目的ヲ以テ本件論争ニ非妥協的態度ヲ示シテ居ル、カモ知シナイ。本件論争ニ於ケル「ソヴィエト」個人、役割ニ付シ、示シテ強硬ニ態度ハクレムリニ當局ニ対スル氏自身、立場及ニ国外ニ於ケル氏個人、名声ヲ高メル目的ヲ以テ最大成功ヲ收メヤウト、希望ニ基クモ、デアルカモ知シナイ。

「カー」

No. 4

Det Doc #1551

才九ツ〇九ヲ

米合衆國國務省

本文書ヲ閱スル各位ニ敬意ヲ表ス

余ハ茲ニ添付セラレタル文書ガ当省ノ綴込ヨリ、

真正ナル寫ナルコトヲ証明ス

右証據トシテ國務長官タル余「ミヨージ・ミ
「ミヤル」ハ一九四七年一月二十日「フミニ」トシテ中
國務省証明官代理ヲシテ同省ノ官印ヲ
押捺シ余ノ姓名ヲ記入セシメタリ

國務長官「ミヨージ・ミ「ミヤル」(署名)
國務省証明官「ヒ・イー・キヤジニ」(署名)